



Week of November 22, 2020

Covered by a Great Cloud of Witnesses

Hebrews 12:1-3

Day One | Read Hebrews 11

• Chapter 11 of the book of Hebrews is anything but bankrupt. Chapter 11 lays out a long list of ancient, faithful, God-followers. Each of them learned to “cover” – to play their own unique part of the symphony of faith. In order to fully appreciate chapter 12, it’s necessary to go back and look at those remarkable people in chapter 11. As you read, make note of the faithfulness of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David and Samuel. What stands out to you most when you read about each person?

Day Two | Read Hebrews 12:1a

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...”

• The New Revised Standard Version refers to the faithful whom we follow as a “great cloud of witnesses” and the Message Bible refers to them as “pioneers who blazed the way...” These are people in history who have covered the song of God in the world so that we can play our part today. Think back to those who taught you the faith. Who stands out to you? How did they play their part in such a way that it made such an impact on you?

Day Three | Read Hebrews 12:1b

“...let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely...”

• What gets in the way of your faith development? What challenges your ability to “play your part” in the ever-unfolding song of faith? Do you have a daily time set aside to read scripture, to think about these kinds of things? Do you use a particular resource, like a devotional book or a digital app? How does the tool you use help you? For over 2 years I’ve used a meditation app called Headspace and more recently I’ve been using Lectio365. Both of these resources (and others like them) are fabulous tools to help us grow in faith. But knowing what gets in the way is the first step toward moving it out of the way. What work do you need to do there?

Day Four | Read Hebrews 12:1c

“...let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us...”

• The writer of Hebrews challenges us to run the race with perseverance, to take a step and stick with it. If you were going to take one new step into discipleship today, what would it be? What one small step forward can you take today that would help you play your part more faithfully?

Day Five | Read Hebrews 12:2

“...looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.”

• For almost 60 years, Prince of Peace has been singing the song of faith by stewarding generosity; responsibly managing the resources that God has placed into our lives. We call that stewardship. We are stewards of the blessing. Two questions for you: What is the biggest challenge you face in singing your part of the song of faith? What is your absolute “sweet spot” when it comes to being a follower of Christ?